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Letter dated 10 September 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I wish to respond to the letter dated 27 March 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/72/820) by making the following points:

The Syrian Arab Republic objects to the unilateral Turkish declaration defining the outer limits of Turkey's continental shelf in the eastern Mediterranean area. It emphasizes that the declaration does not entail any legal obligations under codified or customary international law of the sea, international jurisprudence or international case law. Such issues cannot be resolved through standalone declarations; they must be resolved through just means, in accordance with the aforementioned rules and a joint agreement among neighbouring States.

The Syrian Arab Republic further emphasizes that the Turkish declaration has no binding legal effect on other States; it is merely a standalone declaration, and one to which the Syrian Arab Republic objects. It does not in any sense affect the sovereign rights of the Syrian Arab Republic as set forth in Law No. 28 of 19 November 2003, which was adopted in accordance with international law and was deposited with the Secretariat of the United Nations.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 78 (a), and published on the website of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, as well as in the next *Law of the Sea Bulletin*.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/73/150.

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